



No Longer Any Excuse for Becoming a Dope Slave

The Use of Morphine to Relieve Suffering Patients Has Started Thousands of Them on the Road to Drug Addiction, But Now a New and Effective Pain-Killer Will Exact No Such Pitiful Price

By **ROBERT D. POTTER**,
Science Editor, *The American Weekly*.

A NEW man-made pain-killing drug which promises to master the menace of dope has come out of the laboratory at last and been released for public use.

It is a synthetic called demerol, twice as good as codeine in dulling pain and almost as potent as morphine. It will do everything the habit-forming opium derivative can, and more—but most important—it cuts the risk of drug addiction to a low level.

This synthetic chemical may succeed in reducing almost completely the number of hopeless morphine-takers where all the legislation in the world has made only too little headway.

Dr. Robert D. Batterman of New York University College of Medicine and Bellevue Hospital, leading clinical experimenters on demerol, has tested the drug on more than 4,000 patients.

In addition, during the last three years more than 1,000,000 demerol capsules and tablets plus 200,000 injections have been administered by approximately 200 doctors throughout the nation.

Unlike the wonder drug penicillin, so rare that most civilians cannot get it, demerol is available for everyone.

Science admits that its new creation is not the Utopia of pain-killers because it does have slight habit-forming characteristics for some people.

The real hope is that demerol will prevent the class of drug addicts who, through illness and pain, formerly had to be treated with morphine by their physicians.

These are the people who do not take dope for the thrill of it, or because they are neurotics, or associate with criminals who quickly addict new victims.

These are the unfortunate people who are turned into drug addicts by their own doctors, against their wills and to escape from torturing pain.

Every reputable physician hesitates long

and thoughtfully before he prescribes morphine for a patient, no matter how great the suffering. The doctor knows that if he has to administer the drug for a month, in sizable doses, he has a potential morphine addict on his hands.

The patient, finally recovered from his unbearable pain, must keep on using the drug because his body mechanism now requires it. No longer can the physician prescribe it for the well patient, who now must turn to illicit sources. They alone can furnish morphine in the face of strict national narcotic laws.

Then the tragic chain of human bondage to the drug menace starts.

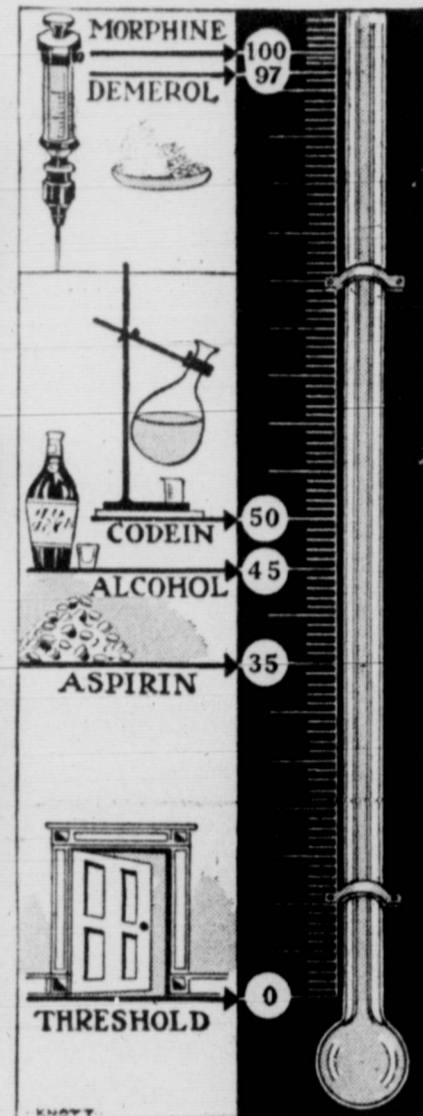
It costs a fortune, which many people addicted through illness do not have. Even millionaires or wealthy stage and screen stars have been reduced to poverty by the drug habit, sacrificing brilliant minds and amazing professional skills.

On a simple pain "thermometer" chart doctors rate morphine's pain-killing powers at 100, codeine at about 50, and the new demerol only a couple of degrees below morphine or about 97 or 98.

Demerol is the first man-made drug which can relieve all types of pain. Even morphine has difficulty in passing such a test. For instance, morphine can not be used for the relief of aches originating in the



Morphine Robbed Her of Home, Beauty, Self-Respect and Now This Hopeless Mother, Under Sentence for Drug Peddling and Addiction, Says Goodbye to Her Little Son— But the Agony of Parting Is Nothing Compared to Physical Torture She'll Undergo Taking the "Cure."



How Pain-Killers Rate From Say Ouch, to the Top Relief of 100 Attained by Morphine.

alimentary tract because it produces constipation. It depresses the respiration rate—slows up the breathing—and therefore is not used for asthma.

Tests show that demerol is helpful in achieving "painless childbirth." Not only is the period of labor shortened, according to Drs. Gordon Gilbert and Alfred B. Dixon of Baltimore's Union Memorial Hospital but:

"Nervous and apprehensive young first mothers often appear to be emotionally fortified after moderate doses of this drug, and thereafter meet the stress of labor with

greater equanimity. Briefly they seem braver."

Other authorities cite demerol's usefulness in asthma cases and as an agent to "put the patient at his ease" before operations.

As a post-operative pain-killer demerol alleviates and even prevents gas pains.

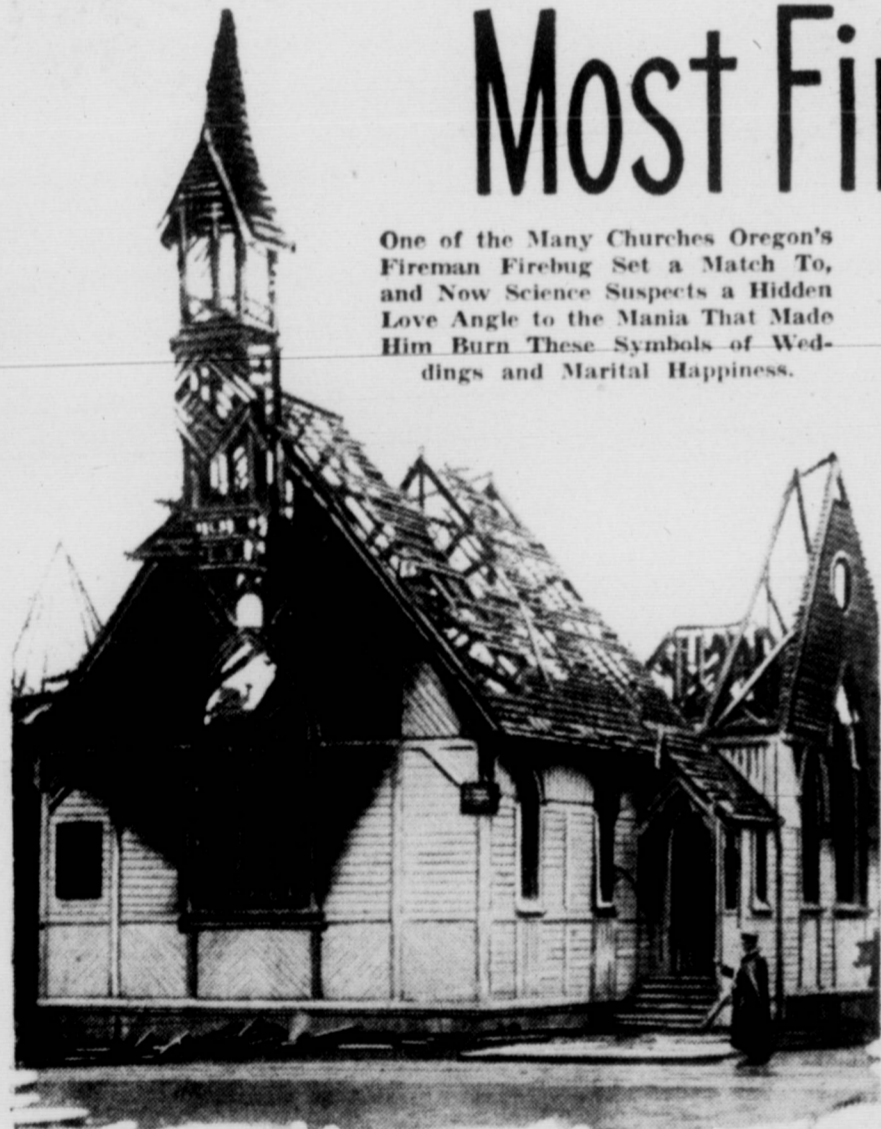
For head injuries the drug is better than morphine because it does not disturb the vision by producing a dilation of the pupil of the eye. Because it is able to stop spasms of the smooth muscles demerol is highly desirable in curing severe colicky pains.

Dr. Batterman reports that patients who have had to use the drug for months show no addiction to it. They suffer no physical agonies if the drug is taken away. Yet some of them, the neurotic ones, may get the habit and suffer mental cravings if deprived of it, just as a smoker has a craving when his cigarettes are removed. That is why demerol will be administered only by physicians.

It is not too much to say that if demerol hasn't slain the morphine menace it at least has it on the run. Opiates, as a German communique might put it, are "disengaging themselves from the enemy."

Most Firebugs Sane but Crazy in Love

One of the Many Churches Oregon's Fireman Firebug Set a Match To, and Now Science Suspects a Hidden Love Angle to the Mania That Made Him Burn These Symbols of Weddings and Marital Happiness.



cently in one of New York's large hospitals.

Shortly after the blaze—in the early evening—muffled cries came from the hospital's third floor stairway. There, lying on the floor, bound and gagged, her clothes torn, was pretty 18-year-old Margaret McCaffery, a nurse's aid.

She's been tied up by a little man dressed in gray, she sobbed, and thrown downstairs because she'd caught him lurking in the halls.

But when a dubious fire marshal, hours later, asked "How many matches did you use to set the first fire," the girl, off guard, answered "One." Then she admitted she'd tied herself up to avoid suspicion.

A love conflict, brought on when hospital authorities told her boy friend that Margaret was only a nurse's aid—not the real nurse she pretended—probably was the fire-setting motive.

The girl's job made it easy for her to touch off one type of building always a favorite with love-crazy pyromaniacs. Hotels and rooming houses vie with hospitals as objects firebugs like to ignite because such persons have a special yen for burning beds.

Whenever a girl sets fire to one particular bed psychiatrists know she's smitten with the person who sleeps there.

One of the Borgia princesses, member of the Roman family historically famous as poisoners, capped the climax for wholesale bed bonfires, and wickedness, when she set fire to 37 hospitals and charitable institutions in one evening, roasting twenty thousand inmates alive—and she did it just to fire her own passions with the sight of the flames.

The little neighborhood church, too, the symbol of happy love climaxed with wedding bells, comes in for a big share of destruction

at the hands of incendiaries.

Not long ago, a fourteen-year-old choir singer set a match to the church where she sang because the choir-master for whom she carried the torch wouldn't let her warble there anymore, and laughed at her infatuation.

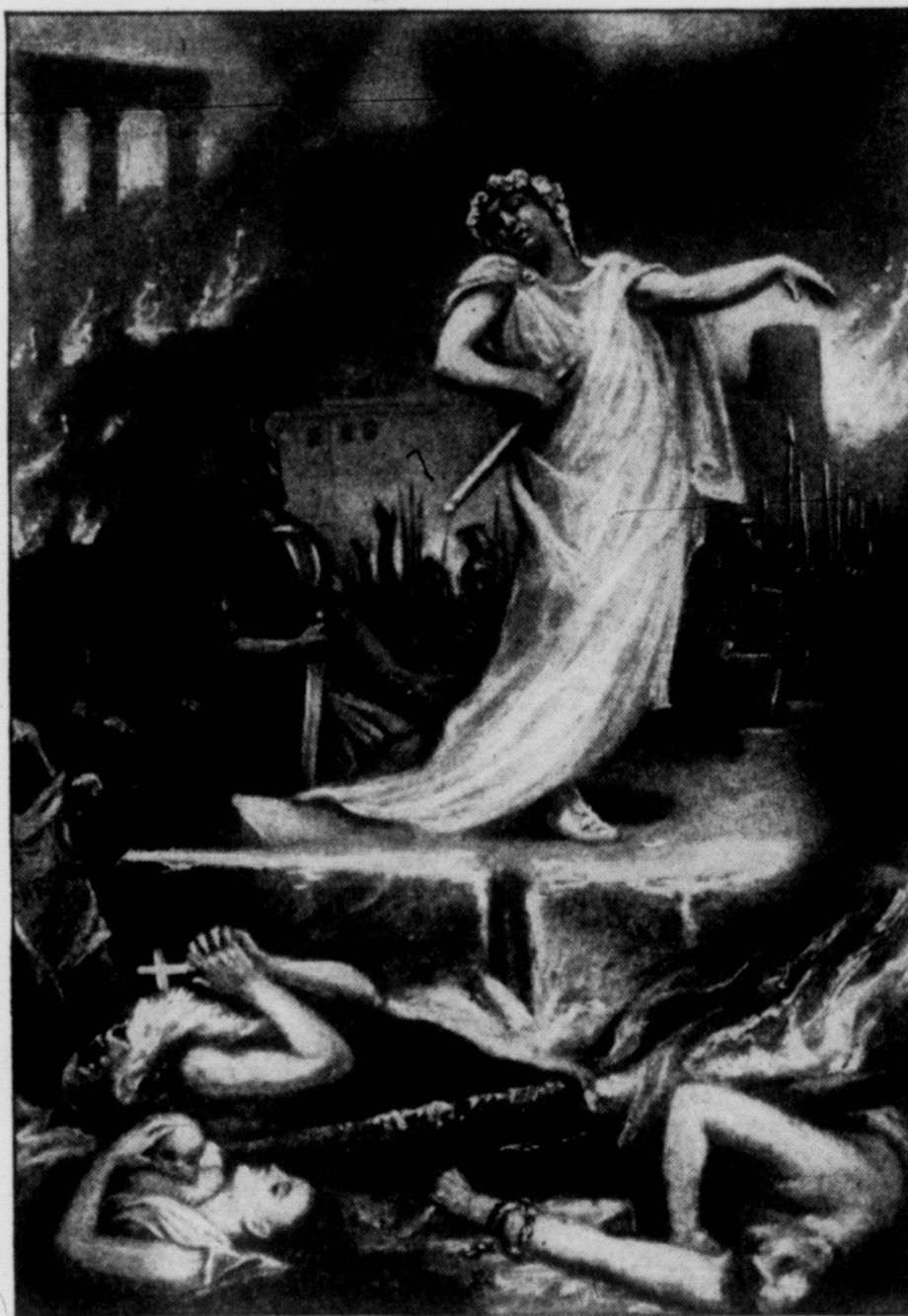
Although no one ever found a Cupid's angle to the case of Chester Buchtel, fire-setting fireman of Portland, Oregon, he, too, had a weakness for igniting churches, and burned \$2,000,000 worth of buildings before he was caught.

Lots of hook-and-ladder boys turn to pyromania in their spare times, a fact that has many of the aspects of the familiar busman's holiday. One theory, which has nothing to do with being bogged down in one's love life, is that they do it for the glory and heroism they feel while putting the blaze out. Another plausible reason why firemen turn firebugs is that they crave the sight of flames.

Some lovelorn people find the red glow from a burning building as stimulating as an ardent embrace. Detectives often trap the fire setter merely by walking through a crowd of onlookers and discovering one face that wears a special look of ecstasy.

The licentious Emperor Nero probably loved the sight of fire in this way, and so, although he didn't actually set Rome ablaze, he looked on in rapture while the city went up in smoke. His unhappy love adventures were so many that, if fire substitutes for a broken heart, he probably would have welcomed the sparks from a blow torch.

Fire Marshal Thomas P. Brophy of New



Because His Amorous Adventures Were Mostly Unfortunate, Emperor Nero's Subconscious Probably Put Love of Fire in Place of Women and That's Why He Revelled in Seeing Rome Go Up in Flames.

York points out that pyromaniacs, whether men or women, are cunning, usually trying to throw off suspicion by discovering and helping to put out the fires. He also states that



The Fireman Firebug of Portland, Oregon, Chester Buchtel, Who Burned Down \$2,000,000 Worth of Churches for a Motive Probably Even He Himself Never Suspected.

women are harder to catch than men.

Fire departments are also kept on the run to extinguish fires started by small children. In most instances children become pyromaniacs due to lack of affection.

Dr. Helen Yarnell, who has studied many children who set fires of this sort, stated that in every case they had been deprived of love. Some were children from boarding houses without any person attached to them. Others were children with an unsympathetic step-parent, or with invalid and selfish parents.

Fire-setting urges are strongest between the ages of 16 and 18, when love impulses are reaching full bloom, but the ability to manage Cupid is scarcely out of the sprouting stage.

It takes a trained specialist to know what to do about a firebug. Sometimes care in a mental institution is required, sometimes prison. Young firesetters frequently get over their tendencies as they mature and are more able to meet and settle their love problems in a normal way.

By **DONALD A. LAIRD, Ph. D., Sci. D.,**
Internationally Known Psychologist
and Lecturer.

FIRE, revered as a god by primitive men, has been both friend and foe to him ever since—and now, psychiatrists have discovered, setting fires is an outlet by which people, young girls especially, find release for their mixed-up love life.

What the pyromaniac, as such firebugs are called, really wants to do is "kindle a flame" in someone's heart.

But instead of attracting a boy friend, the potential fire-setter's charms go unnoticed, or her efforts are snubbed. In other cases a rival steps in and the girl who gets a brush-off can't face it, or just a temporary quarrel with a best beau may cause the smoldering resentment that begets dangerous conflagrations.

Then her subconscious mind persuades her that touching a match to anything inflammable will settle the love dilemma.

That, experts believe, may have been why three fires broke out within a few hours re-